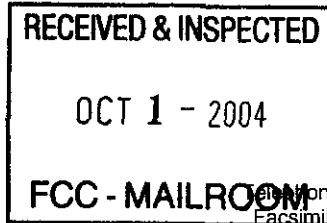




Brian G. Iverson
Associate Counsel



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Email: biverson@bh-corp.com

September 29, 2004

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45
High Cost Model (HCM) support for Competitive ETC
Initial Certification Filing

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 30, 2004, Black Hills FiberCom, LLC is scheduled to be granted ETC status by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in certain areas within Qwest Corporation's South Dakota service territory (ILEC SAC 395145). Black Hills FiberCom will request a CETC Study Area Code from USAC as soon this ETC order is approved. The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission also plans to certify Black Hills FiberCom's use of High Cost Model (HCM) support on September 30. But in the event that self-certification is necessary for the initial receipt of HCM support, this letter is intended to address Black Hills FiberCom's proper use of such support:

This is to certify that Black Hills FiberCom, LLC will use its High Cost Model support only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and service for which the support is intended.

I am authorized to make this certification on behalf of Black Hills FiberCom, LLC. This certification is for the Competitive ETC study area listed below:

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Study Area Code</u>
Black Hills FiberCom, LLC	South Dakota	Pending

If you have any questions regarding this certification, please call me at 605-721-2305.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brian Iverson
Associate Counsel, Black Hills Corporation
Black Hills FiberCom, L.L.C.

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